

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 9, 2015

www.op97.org

Important Dates

February 9th- 12th	Winter Conferences
February 28	Holmes Auction

News

Registration for **Spring Edge** classes is open! Classes will be filled on a first come first serve basis. [Click here](#) for details about class offerings. You can register at <http://owh.classtrackonline.com>. All registration will be done ONLINE. Registration will end Friday, February 20 at 5 PM.

Tech Night with District 97, 2/18, 6-8 PM

Teacher librarians from District 97 along with Oak Park Public Library librarians will demonstrate databases and apps for parents of elementary and middle school kids to showcase all that is offered with this joint partnership between the schools and library. Please bring your own device if possible. Registration with an Oak Park Public Library card necessary. Held at the OP Main Library in the Veterans Room on the Second Floor. [Register here.](#)

Snow Gear

Please remember that all students go out for recess and need hats, gloves, and mittens. Many students are coming in from recess with wet feet. You may want to send in an extra pair of socks as well.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders are beginning their "Design an Ad" contest run by the Wednesday Journal. They will be given a local business and have to design a black and white ad with original tagline, illustration and body copy. The winning ads will be run in the newspaper!

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Mid term music update

Currently the 4th grade is working on two projects: their recorder performance of "Song for Winter" and their compositions. The recording of "Song for Winter" is due Wednesday 2/25. Here are the students who have completed their assignment.

Mira Arvind
Lauren Kocheny
Caden Scheuring

If your child's name is not on this list, then they need to finish the recording assignment by 2/25. I will be having a help session next Thursday February 19th and Monday February 23rd at 11:45 in the music room. Copies of the sheet music for the piece are in my room or can be found on my blog under the 5th grade link at makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com . The students need to make sure that I can see their fingers/ the recorder in the video they make. Then they email to me at akaria@op97.org and I will write them to tell them if they have passed or not.

The composition assignment will be done entirely at school. If a student is behind they can come to the same help sessions, I have listed above.

Chorus and Gold Belt - Chorus will be working on songs and the choral festival. Gold Belt will be working on small ensemble songs for our April concert (date TBD).

Spanish - All classes have finished their stories. They are currently illustrating the stories and will be acting them out in class this week. Assessments on the stories will be next week.

Library - *Regular Library news*: We are working on science research projects. Last week I introduced students to Middle Search Plus, which can be accessed through the [OPPL's homework help page](#). Students should have **three resources** for this project. This week we will be creating bibliographies.

Reading Olympics: We had our first meeting this past Friday. Students: if you don't remember which books you signed up to read, remember you can check in with the teammate who has the sign up sheet, or check in with me in the library. **Books can be accessed through the Holmes library, the OPPL, the 3M cloud, Overdrive, Follett Shelf, and in fifth grade classrooms.** This extracurricular activity is voluntary, but all students are encouraged to participate! Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - February is Gymnastic Unit here at Holmes. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts. (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

During the last weeks of January and the beginning of February, we will focus on comprehending expository nonfiction texts. We will practice "revving up" our minds to read nonfiction by reading text features such as the table of contents, headings, subheadings, charts, graphs, and diagrams. We will also focus on remembering main ideas and details as we read and take notes in a "boxes and bullets" format. We will also analyze nonfiction texts to figure out what structures the author used, and we will tailor our thinking and notes to fit these structures. These structures include description, compare and contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect, and sequence.

Writing

Students will be working on their Science research papers during writing time.

Math

This week, we will continue with our study of fraction multiplication and division. We will be working on fraction multiplication word problems. There will be an assessment on Thursday covering fraction multiplication. We will review in class on Wednesday.

Science

In science this week, students will learn more about how changing a variable can change the outcome of an experiment. We will use a pendulum experiment to show how changing the length of a swinger changes the number of swings. The class also will graph the results of the experiment. For more information on the science fair, please visit the wiki at this link:

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Please contact your child's science teacher with questions about the project.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we will continue to learn about the first English settlements in North America. We will focus on the colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth, but take a quick detour to explore the mystery of Roanoke. This week, students will be watching a video tour of Plymouth colony. Students will take notes and use this information to write a "Postcard from the New World" which will focus on what life was like in one of these colonies.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We learn that the bases "scrib" and "script" mean "write" and that "dict" means "say," "speak," or "tell."

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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